

Romania

16 – 31 May 2022

The Government of Romania, civil society, UNHCR, and other UN and international organizations continue to respond to the emergency as well as the medium and longer term needs, both at the border and in areas where refugees are settling. UNHCR is working with authorities and inter-agency partners to support refugees' access to services and rights, in accordance with temporary protection status. Close coordination with the Government, which leads the response, continues to be ensured.

KEY FIGURES*

1,098,326

Ukrainian refugees arrived in Romania as of 1 June

1,013,856

Ukrainian refugees departed Romania as of 1 June

84,470

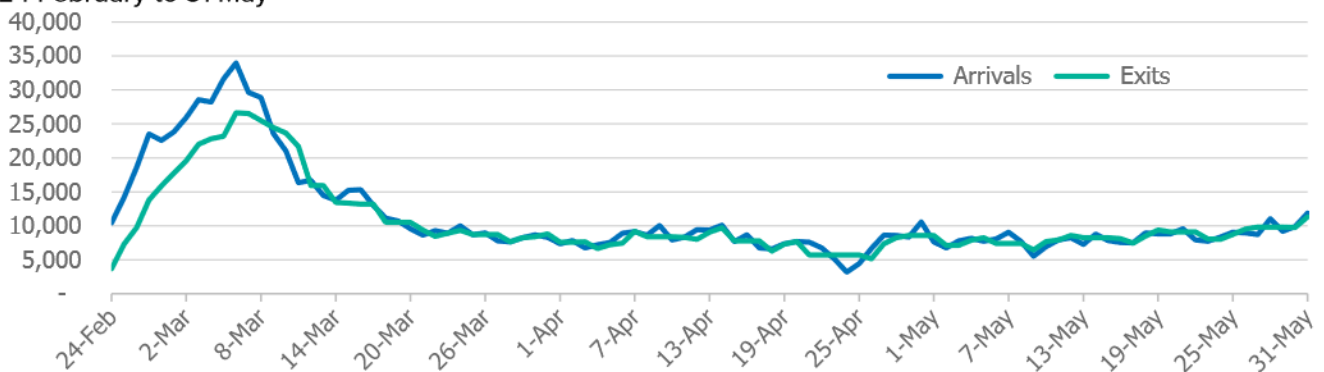
Ukrainian refugees remain in Romania as of 1 June



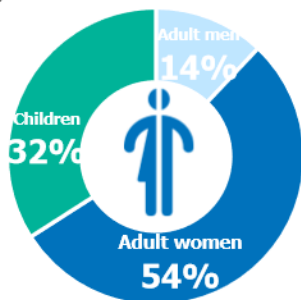
On 10 March 2022, refugees prepare to board buses from Palanca, Moldova to Huși, Romania through fast-track transfers supported by the governments of Romania and Moldova and facilitated by UNHCR and IOM. © UNHCR/Mihai von Eremia.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

24 February to 31 May



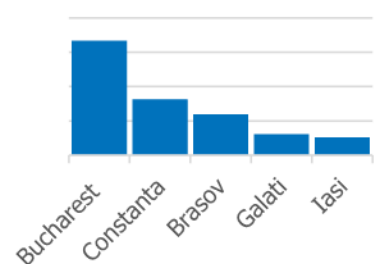
Age and Gender



32,522

registered for temporary protection

Top 5 counties hosting refugees



UNHCR Response

Highlight

The [cash assistance enrolment center in Romexpo](#), Bucharest, is [fully operational](#), next to the Municipality's free-supermarket for refugees. The General Inspectorate of Immigration, which now has a regular presence at this center, was invited by UNHCR for issuance of temporary protection status, supported by the European Union Asylum Agency. In addition, UNHCR has gathered sister UN Agencies and partner NGOs to provide additional services: the National Romanian Council for Refugees (CNRR) for legal counselling; WHO and the Ministry of Health for health counselling and referrals; and IOM for provision of information on anti-trafficking, transportation and accommodation. [Romexpo](#) is becoming a [one-stop-shop](#) for all services. UNHCR will aim for a similar approach in other enrolment centers across Romania.

At the border

- During the reporting period, the [population of concern to UNHCR remained stable](#) at 84,000-90,000 people, with some 143,800 Ukrainian refugees arriving in Romania. Some "pendular" movements have been observed.
- [Permanent presence at the border is being reinforced](#) by UNHCR and partner staff. Seven additional UNHCR staff have been deployed to Galati, Iasi and Suceava during the reporting period, reaching a total of around [15 staff](#). UNHCR's presence covers the four main border crossing points between Romania and Ukraine (Halmeu, Sighet, Siret and Isaccea), and two border points between Romania and Moldova (Albita and Sculeni).
- [Provision of information](#) on temporary protection, immediate referral to assistance providers according to needs as well as psychological and legal assistance.
- [Nine Blue Dots, including five 'Light Blue' Dots are operational](#), in partnership with UNICEF, the Child Protection Authority and NGOs (see also below).
- [Initial identification and referral to Governmental services](#) of vulnerable populations, including unaccompanied and separated children.

Protection

- [Over 2,500 people](#), during the reporting period, [received counselling](#) from UNHCR and partner staff working at the eight border crossing points, reaching around [18,300 people](#), as of 31 May. Information requested largely focuses on legal status, notably temporary protection, cash assistance, transportation to other EU countries, long-term accommodation and food, employment, education and access to medical services.
- In May 2022, [over 150 Government officials, humanitarian workers and volunteers](#) in Siret and Sighet border areas have been trained on refugee protection, gender-based violence, accountability to affected people and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. In addition, [over 20 Border Police and Frontex officers](#) at Sighet border crossing point were trained on child appropriate communication, child specific risks and trafficking.
- UNHCR, UNICEF, the Child Protection Authority and NGOs, continue to increase the number of Blue Dots and strengthen the services provided with partners. As a result, [two new Light Blue Dots](#) are operational in Bucharest. There are currently [four Blue Dots](#) at Brasov, Husi, Sighet and Siret, and [five Light Blue Dots](#) at Albita, Bucharest and Isaccea. Additional Blue Dot is being set up for Bucharest, and Light Blue Dots for Sculeni, Galati and Constanta.
- [UNHCR and IOM continue to jointly support the authorities of Romania and Moldova by facilitating fast-track transfers](#) from Palanca border crossing point with Ukraine, in Moldova, to Husi, Romania. During the reporting period, [over 400 people](#) have been transported to Romania through this mechanism, reaching a total of [around 11,000 people](#) as of 31 May. UNHCR partner ACTED also provides transportation for people from border crossing points to other locations in Moldova and Romania.
- On 24 May, [gender-based violence referral pathways](#), including information on some 33 NGOs and seven Governmental institutions, have been finalized and shared with all protection actors to enhance access to information and protection services including psychosocial support for those in need. Additional services and actors working specifically on child protection are

being identified by the child protection sub-working group for inclusion in child protection-specific referral pathways.

- IOM, in coordination with UNHCR, national authorities and the ProTect platform, have established an [anti-trafficking task force](#) to strengthen efforts to protect vulnerable refugees from the threat to trafficking and exploitation. The first crisis response anti-trafficking task force meeting took place on 31 May, some 13 NGOs and four UN agencies participated in the meeting, and draft terms of reference were presented.

Communication with communities and provision of information

- UNHCR [Help content](#) is delivered through [допомогти / Допомога](#) platform (“help” in Ukrainian) developed jointly with the authorities (Department for Emergency Situations, also known as DSU), IOM, Code for Romania and civil society.
- The UNHCR Romania [Help page](#) has been visited over **45,700 times**. Furthermore, UNHCR Romania has helped create and is consistently updating the national information platform available at [dopomoha.ro](#). The platform is run in collaboration with the Romanian authorities, IOM and national NGOs and provides a space for reliable information on legal status, rights and access to services. UNHCR and partner CNRR are scaling up [distribution of information leaflets](#) at border crossing points.
- UNHCR and partners maintain three [24/7 emergency phone lines](#), responding to calls for information and support. Over 300 calls continue to be received and addressed per day.

Multipurpose Cash Assistance

- Since the rollout of the cash distribution and enrolment pilot in Bucharest on 4 April, over **5,100 individuals** (around **2,000 households**), to date, have been enrolled to receive three-month multipurpose cash assistance, of whom over 90% are women and children. Individuals can request appointments to be enrolled for cash assistance online at [dopomoha.ro](#).
- Around **4,900 individuals**, as of 31 May, have received the cash assistance by UNHCR.
- A new cash assistance enrolment center is operational at the [Brasov Blue Dot](#).
- UNHCR has trained 15 additional [cash assistance enrollers](#) for new cash enrolment sites in Bucharest and Brasov, which are now operational. The programme is being [scaled up](#). UNHCR will open additional enrolment sites in Galati and Iasi next week, and Suceava in the near future.

Core Relief Items

- UNHCR has [three warehouses in Bucharest](#) for storing core relief items. UNHCR uses its storage hub to deliver humanitarian assistance inside Ukraine and pre-position items for needs in Romania.
- Romania is a [logistic hub](#) and a corridor for receiving and delivering relief goods, including through [convoys to Ukraine](#), delivering 124,950 blankets, 8,400 plastic sheets, 68,400 jerry cans, 34,520 solar lamps and 5,139 kitchen sets. 12,432 blankets have also been delivered to Hungary. Since the start of the emergency, 49 trucks of 22 tons capacity each, containing relief goods have been sent from Romania to Ukraine, while three trucks have been sent to Hungary.
- UNHCR is assisting the Municipality of Bucharest in renting a building in Romexpo for the distribution, of food and non-food items, including clothes and childcare products, mostly donated by volunteers and NGOs.
- UNHCR and partners continue to assess collective centres in order to prepare additional support to enhance reception capacities, should this be needed. To date, **51 locations** have been [assessed](#) by UNHCR partner REACH during the Site Monitoring Exercise.

Inter-Agency Coordination

On 27 April, UNHCR and partners launched the updated [Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#). Sectoral priorities include protection, basic needs, health and nutrition, education and livelihoods and inclusion. The Romania chapter will support the upcoming Government of Romania's National Action Plan.

In agreement with the Government of Romania, UNHCR has set up the Inter-Agency Refugee Coordination Model structure made up of eight sector working groups and sub-groups, one anti-trafficking task force and one prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse network. Working group leads and co-leads attend the Government's sectoral working group meetings, bringing the contribution of UN agencies and NGOs, and bringing back policy decisions taken by the Government to inform the humanitarian response.

Coordination structures are in place and functioning, with technical sector working groups, taskforces and networks held every two weeks. UNHCR chairs a weekly Inter-sector Working Group to ensure cross-sectoral planning and response. Information Management support is ongoing to help sector leads to complete 5w mapping, providing tracking of ongoing partner activities, target populations, and response locations, as well as to disseminate information via the newly launched Operational Data Portal for Romania.

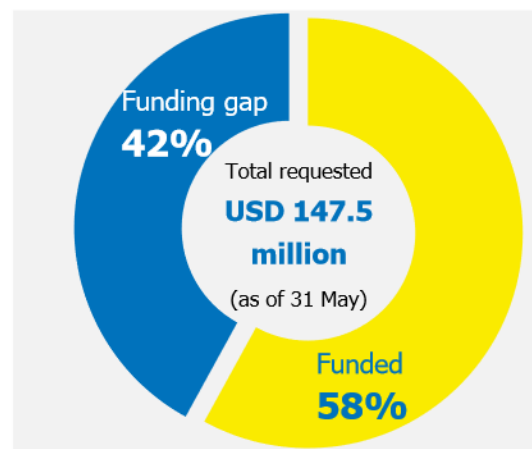
Two inter-sectoral working group meetings were held during the reporting period, in addition to basic needs, cash, education, health, mental health, protection (child protection and gender-based violence), and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

External Engagement

- On 17 May, the Government of Romania, the Japanese Ambassador and the UNHCR Representative, took part in a joint donation ceremony to mark the arrival of a Japanese airlift containing UNHCR core relief items destined for Ukraine. The ceremony took place at the UNHCR warehouse outside Bucharest.
- On 25 May, UNHCR met with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Her Majesty Margareta, Custodian of the Romanian Crown, at the Bucharest Romexpo complex, which hosts a complex of services for refugees in Romania, and briefed on UNHCR and partner activities in support of the Government's response. The Municipality of Bucharest and the Romanian Red Cross were also present at the supermarket of refugees.
- On 31 May, UNHCR participated in the "Supporting Refugee Children in Romania" international conference on inclusion of Ukrainian refugee children in the national child protection and education systems, co-hosted by the Government and Plan International. UNHCR presented its role in the response, opportunities and challenges, and highlighted the inclusion of refugee children in the national education system.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for government donor contributions to the response in Romania by Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.



Note: The financial requirements for Romania include requirements for the operation's regular programme and the Ukraine Situation. The percentage funded (58%) and total funding amount are indicative, and this leaves an indicative funding gap of 42% of the financial requirements.

USEFUL LINKS

Ukraine situation: Revised Supplementary Appeal
 UNHCR's Ukraine Situation page
 Operational Data Portal

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